

Early Childhood Enhancement Grants

- Early Childhood Enhancement grants are available to registered family day care providers (or those in the process of becoming registered).
- The purpose of the grant is to help purchase high-quality items that will enhance the experiences of the children in your care, such as necessary child care equipment, quality outdoor play equipment, developmentally appropriate toys, established curriculum materials and high-quality books. A list of toy suggestions can be found on the back of this sheet. (Contact your ECE or Licensing Worker if you would like more information on selecting quality play materials.)
- **Grant deadline is April 30, 2007.** All receipts must be submitted and funds must be expended by June 1, 2007.
- Grants are limited to a maximum of \$500 and are available one time only.
- Used equipment, toys, or books are not eligible for grant awards. All items must be purchased new.
- This grant is not intended to purchase consumable supplies, such as paper, crayons, diapers, wipes, or formula. It cannot be used to purchase personal items for your home such as computers, copiers, televisions, DVD or VCR players, or family furniture. If you are not sure if an item is fundable, contact the Division of Child Care Services: 1-800-227-3020.
- Grant awards are not guaranteed. Grants depend on availability of funds and whether the request meets funding criteria.
- The Division of Child Care Services reserves the right to recommend replacement items for articles that do not meet criteria.
- Grant awards are "reimbursed". If you are awarded the grant, you will not receive the money up front, but will be reimbursed after you submit documentation of your purchases.
- Items that have been purchased prior to your grant application are NOT eligible for funding.
- You will be required to sign a contract and agree to remain in the child care business as a registered provider for at least one year from the date of the grant award. If you stop providing child care before the year is complete, you will be required to repay 50% of the grant award.
- A decision will be made on your request within 30 days after the application is received by the Division of Child Care Services. If you are approved, you will receive an award letter and instructions for requesting reimbursement.

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Child Care Services Suggested Toy List

Music Play

- Rhythm Sets
- Tambourines
- Drums

Gross Motor Equipment

- Tricycles
- Balls
- Playhouses
- Climbers
- Outdoor Play Equipment
- Parachutes
- Hula Hoops
- Jump Ropes
- Playmats
- Hop-Along Balls

Games

- Ring Toss
- Number Games
- Board Games

Arts

- Easels
- Aprons
- Stencils
- Chalk Boards

Language Skills

- Magnetic Letters/Numbers
- Books

Dramatic Play

- Puppets
- Puppet Theaters
- Dolls (multi-ethnic preferred)
- Doll Furniture
- Role Playing Supplies
- Play Food & Accessories
- Play Furniture
- Kitchen Playsets

Exploration & Discovery Play

- Sand/Water Tables
- Sand Play Sets
- Water Play Sets
- Sound Boxes
- Mystery Boxes
- Science Discovery Kits
- Magnet Sets

Manipulatives

- Sorting Toys
- Nesting Toys
- Blocks
- Puzzles
- Stringing Sets
- Pegboard Sets
- Hammering Kits
- Snap Together Beads
- Lincoln Logs

Misc.

- Theme Boxes
- Curriculum Packages such as:

Funshine Express

<http://www.funshineexpress.com/default.htm>

or Mother Goose Time

<http://www.mothersgoosetime.com/index.cfm>

Sources for High-Quality Toys & Equipment

- Lakeshore Learning Materials, 1-800-421-5354, <http://www.lakeshorelearning.com>
- Teaching Treasures, 113 W 41st St., Sioux Falls, SD, 57105, 1-800-234-0380
- Play with a Purpose, PO Box 998, Owatonna, MN, 55060, 1-888-330-1826
- Nasco Learning Fun, 1-800-558-9595, <http://www.enasco.com>
- S&S Education Plus!, 1-800-566-6678, <http://www.ssw.com>